



FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

May 23, 2023

Summer Meal Programs



The Let's Talk Tuesday Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Non-congregate meals recording is now posted on the [Training](#) section of our website.

The following questions have been commonly asked:

Can a location serve as both a Seamless Summer Option (SSO) site and a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site?

A sponsor cannot serve both SSO and SFSP at one site, on the same day. It is not the intent of the programs to be used in conjunction, but rather a sponsor should choose the program that is most compatible with the needs of the site. Sponsors should refer to the Seamless Summer and Other Options for Schools Web site to help select the meal service that is most appropriate for each site at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/seamless-summer-and-other-options-schools>.

How can Open SSO sites outreach to children in the community?

- Contact newspapers, local radio, and local television stations to promote the program.
- Post flyers in the community and organize canvassing events to distribute information in low-income neighborhoods.
- Provide information in parent and community newsletters or community calendars.
- Ensure that your site is welcoming.
- Share pictures and meal service times on social media.
- Ask the local food bank to hang posters and include flyers in food bags.
- The [USDA Summer Meals Toolkit](#) includes PowerPoint files, informational sheets, letters and marketing materials that can be modified and used to suit your specific needs.
- [No Kid Hungry Outreach Toolkit](#) has social media graphics, flyers, and other resources that can be customized.

- The USDA nondiscrimination statement must be included on advertising materials. If the size of the material is too small to include the full statement, the material will at a minimum, include the following statement in the same size as the text: "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Where can I find the SSO review form that is required to be completed during SSO operation?

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) On-site Review form is located on the DESE FNS website at <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/seamless-summer-option-site-review>. More SSO information is located on our [Feeding Children in the Summer](#) page.

Summer Workshops 2023

Below are tentative dates and locations for the 2023 Summer Workshops. Locations have not been confirmed for all areas:

- **St. Louis Area**
 - June 28-29 - Both days at Wentzville, MO
- **Kansas City Area**
 - July 26 - Cameron, MO
 - July 27 - Lee's Summit, MO
- **Central Area**
 - August (date TBD)

Training hours will be obtained to apply towards Professional Development requirements. You are invited to join our team for a day of in-person training and networking opportunity. During this summer's workshop activities, School Food Service staff will take home lots of big ideas, participate in networking opportunities, and engage in donated foods topics - we have something informative and enjoyable for all. We look forward to seeing all of you this summer!

Panel Discussion: *Menu's that Make Sense*

During the workshop we are looking for School Food Service experts to participate in a panel. Please contact [Barbara Shaw](#) if interested.

- Food Service Directors
- Distributors
- Industry
- School Chefs
- Retired Food Service Directors

Registration – COMING SOON!

Meal Pattern Changes in Effect July 1, 2023

National School Lunch Program Transitional Sodium Timeline & Limits		
Age/Grade Group	Target 1: Effective July 1, 2022	Interim Target 1A: Effective July 1, 2023
K-5	≤ 1,230 mg	≤ 1,110 mg
6-8	≤ 1,360 mg	≤ 1,225 mg
9-12	≤ 1,420 mg	≤ 1,280 mg

Sodium Target 1A, as promulgated by the *Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium - Final Rule*, goes into effect on **July 1, 2023**, in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) only. There will be no change to sodium limits for breakfasts served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Please refer to the chart above for specific Sodium Target 1A limits by grade level. Please note that all values must be less than or equal to.

As a reminder, Sodium Target 1A is included in the *Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Final Rule* published in February 2022. The 2022 transitional “bridge” rule provided schools with short-term standards as they moved beyond COVID nutrition standard waivers. The proposed rule - *Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* - published in February 2023 aims to provide schools with long-term, durable nutrition standards in line with the latest nutrition science. A final rule based on feedback gathered during the public comment period and publish that final rule in early 2024.

Resources to aid school meal program operators in Sodium Target 1A implementation including lower sodium standardized recipes that meet school meal pattern requirements can be found through the Institute of Child Nutrition's [Child Nutrition Recipe Box](#) and Team Nutrition's [Recipes for Healthy Kids: Cookbook for Schools](#). The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) also offers sodium reduction resources and online courses through the ICN's [Shaking it Up](#) initiative, which features strategies and best practices for reducing sodium in school menus.

Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Funds

The SCA webinar that was on May 9th is available here

<https://vimeo.com/828397002/2f1ac92085?share=copy>

Food and Nutrition Services processed a reallocation payment to school districts that received the first round of SCA funds in school year 2021-2022. Schools received this payment on May 19, 2023. You can view the payment on your School Nutrition Program application packet, click Claims, then click Claim- Funds for SNP. Directions are also covered in the Let's Talk Tuesday SCA Funds webinar slides posted on our website here <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/lets-talk-tuesday-supply-chain-assistance-slides> .

SCA Rounds 2 and 3

- Review the updated FAQ document posted on our website here <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/supply-chain-assistance-sca-frequently-asked-questions>
- The SCA funds can only be spent on un-processed or minimally processed food.
- School districts **MUST** complete the attestation survey no later than May 31, 2023 to be eligible for these funds. The survey is found on the website under the [News and Updates](#) section or by following the link here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z8MNHFN>
- If your school district contracts with a Food Service Management company to provide meals, the school may contact the FSMC representative to discuss supply chain disruptions. The SCA funds must not be used to pay the regular monthly invoice for fixed-price meals. The SCA funds can be paid to the FSMC, at the discretion of the school district, so that the FSMC can use the SCA funds to pay for a food invoice that the FSMC pays directly to purchase food for the schools meals.
 - The school district would retain the invoice for records and use proper coding. For example: the price of milk has increased due to supply chain disruptions. The school can decide to pay the FSMC a portion of the SCA funds so that the FSMC can pay the milk invoice using the SCA funds.

- The purpose of the funds is to help provide relief for supply chain disruptions such as price increases and disruptions in food distribution brought on by the pandemic. If the school district does not purchase food directly, the school district may choose to send a check to the FSMC using the SCA funds to pay for an invoice. The school district must retain a copy of the invoice that the SCA funds are used to pay for by the FSMC.
- If the school district can not use the SCA funds, the district should not accept the funds and do not complete the survey. Any remaining funds will be reallocated to other schools.

State Payment

Food and Nutrition Services distributed the State Payment to public school districts on May 11, 2023. The payment received was a smaller amount than in the past. There are two reasons for the decrease in State payment revenue.

First, Food and Nutrition Services receives Federal funds from USDA to operate the program and in return the State of Missouri is required to match a percentage of funds using a general State cash fund. This match is then used to distribute to school districts via a State Payment and/or cover expenses related to the Food Distribution Program.

In school year 2022-2023 the price of deliveries for commodity food items increased. Therefore, we had to use some of the match revenue to pay for delivering commodity foods to public school districts. This is the reason the amount that school districts received in May for a State payment is smaller than in the past.

The second change that also made a difference was the operation of the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in school year 2020-2021. The State Payment uses a calculation that looks at the number of lunches a school district served in the prior year. In school year 2020-2021 many school districts operated SSO to serve all lunches for free under the COVID-19 pandemic waivers. The state payment uses lunch meals served July 2020-June 2021 under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and SSO meals served October 2020-September 2021. Since many districts did not operate NSLP during the school year then, only SSO meals were used in the calculation and possibly for some districts, resulted in a decrease in total lunches served.

If you have any questions concerning this change, please contact our office.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The May 5, 2022, [guidance memorandum](#) directs states and local agencies, program operators and sponsors to update their non-discrimination policies, informational materials and websites to include prohibitions against discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Our office expects to receive updated And Justice for All (AJFA) Posters to distribute to schools, until then continue to use the current AJFA poster. The school may also print AJFA posters. We do not have a date that we will receive the updated posters from USDA.

Educational institutions that claim a Title IX religious exemption or seek USDA assurance of religious exemption from Title IX provisions may continue using the 2015

version of the USDA NDS and the 2019 version of the AJFA poster. The 2019 version of the AJFA poster (AD-475A) is located on the [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights website](#).

All And Justice for All posters must be printed at 11" width x 17" height per Departmental Regulation 4300-003. The minimum text size to be used on the posters is 14-point. For more information on Civil Rights please visit the [Civil Rights](#) section on our website.



Reminders and Important Information

Free and Reduced Price Application and Direct Certification Information and Procedures 2023-24 Handbook

The Free and Reduced Price Application and Direct Certification Information and Procedures 2023-24 is now available on the [DESE Food and Nutrition Services website](#) under [Free and Reduced Price Information and Handbooks](#). A [Frequently asked Questions](#), pertaining to the Free and Reduced Application process, has been provided to assist for this upcoming year.

If you have any questions please call Food and Nutrition Services at 573-751-3526.

Local Food for Schools (LFS) Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recently announced that it has signed a cooperative agreement with Missouri for more than \$1.2 million to increase their purchase of nutritious, local foods for school meal programs. Through the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS), DESE will purchase and distribute local and regional foods and beverages for schools to serve children through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. These products will be healthy and unique to their geographic area, with the goal of improving child nutrition and building new relationships between schools and local farmers. Through LFS, DESE will encourage urban and rural schools to apply for funding to promote purchases of local foods for school meal trays and foster proper health and safety habits. This program will create an opportunity for underserved farmers to promote and grow their business as well as create a relationship between schools and local agricultural communities. Read the full [USDA news release](#) [here](#).

The LFS webinar and recording from May 11 will be posted soon on the [Farm to School page](#).

LEA's can apply for this grant by completing an application - **COMING SOON!**

Pandemic Eligibility Transfer Benefits (P-EBT) for Summer 2023

At this time state officials determined that Missouri will **NOT** operate a P-EBT program for Summer 2023. If your LEA would like to notify families to avoid calls and questions please reach out to the families in your district.

Turnip the Beet 2023 Nomination Packet

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is

pleased to share the availability of the [Turnip the Beet 2023 Nomination Packet](#). The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. More information can be found on the [Turnip the Beet webpage](#).

USDA Foods Update

Gold Star Account Reminder - Please take a moment to review the commodity foods in your Gold Star "Live Inventory" and place any remaining inventory on order. Schools can receive these items in June. Gold Star Foods will not be delivering these items in July. All items you have processed must be delivered in this school year. Commodity items remaining in your Gold Star account will be automatically force shipped to your school if you have not selected them for delivery.

DOD Funds for Summer School – DOD funds are still available for schools that would like to receive bonus entitlement. Please note:

School using the **Seamless Summer Option (SSO)** or **NSLP** to serve meals during Summer School may continue to use their DOD FFAVORS accounts.

Schools choosing the **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** to serve meals during summer school are not allowed to utilize their DOD FFAVORS accounts.

Orange Juice 110651 - This brown box item is not available for the 23/24 SY. We do have a small amount of carry-over inventory that we will distribute in August and the first weeks of September. Once that inventory is depleted we will begin sending a different orange juice 100277. This is also a frozen product but it is packaged in cases of 70 cartons versus 96 portion cups. We have calculated adjusted cases based on this difference. The adjusted number of cases for each district that ordered this product will be posted on our USDA Foods website this fall.

Entitlement Balances – As a reminder, SY 22/23 ends June 30th and at that time all unspent entitlement will be swept from district accounts. For districts that have unspent entitlement and would like to utilize it in the next school, you may submit a plan to request entitlement be returned to be utilized in the 23/24 school year for Net Off Invoice purchases. The plan must contain specific products, number of cases and entitlement necessary to procure those items. All requested entitlement must be used by October 2023. Also, carry over entitlement cannot interfere with your use of 23/24 entitlement. Email your Entitlement Carry-Over Plan to donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov.

Donated Foods Summer Workshop Sessions – Our Donated Foods Team will be offering training this summer at the DESE Summer Workshops. Training topics will include, Net Off Invoice and Fee For Service processing options, utilizing K12 and Processor Link for tracking processed commodity pounds, and our Gold Star Warehouse ordering system. Look for more information on dates and locations coming soon!

23/24 SY Commodity Foods Program Changes - Due to the rising cost of fuel for deliveries, warehouse and driver labor, along with warehouse storage, DESE FNS will be making changes to how we delivery commodity items to school districts. In the past we have been able to fully cover the cost of this service, but it has become very expensive and the funds we have to operate this program no longer stretch that far due to price increases. Beginning in the 23/24 SY, districts that choose to leave commodity products in their Gold Star account beyond the delivery month requested on their packet, will incur a monthly storage fee for each case that remains. Also, ALL school districts will begin paying a per case delivery fee. This will be directly billed to the school by Gold Star Foods. We are still finalizing these changes and will provide additional details when we have them.



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